

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a perfect illustration of why many Americans are opposed to media consolidation.

Respect for our democracy requires that Sinclair stations, which use public airwaves free of charge, refrain from airing one opinion to the exclusion of other diverse views. Programs like "Stolen Honor" weaken our democracy. I would be equally opposed to an airing of an anti-Bush film under the same circumstances. There are other, legitimate venues for the airing of these types of programs.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.